



CALIFORNIA
EARLY
START

*Central Directory of
Early Intervention
Resources*

JANUARY 2001

**Developed by the
Department of Developmental Services**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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Publishing Information

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This Directory was printed and distributed under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Permission is granted to photocopy this Directory with appropriate citation to DDS. In 2001, this Directory will be available through the DDS website at www.dds.ca.gov.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this directory. If there have been any changes since the date of its publication, kindly fax these changes to DDS at 916/654-2271 or ESR at 916/492-4002.

Ordering Information

Copies of this publication are available through Early Start Resources, 429 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, 800/869-4337, (fax) 916/492-4002, or DDS, 1600 9th Street, Room 310, Sacramento, CA 95814, 800/515-BABY, 916/654-2773, (TTY) 916/654-2054, (fax) 916/654-2271.

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Foreword

Children are our most valuable resource. The investment we make in them today will benefit all of California tomorrow. Early intervention services *make a difference* in the lives of infants and toddlers at risk of or with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.



Based on the needs of the child and family, early intervention services maximize the developmental potential of infants and toddlers with disabilities within the context of their daily routines and activities, increasing their potential to live independently and exercise their full rights as citizens. The earlier intervention is started, the more likely it is that the educational achievement and quality of life for children with disabilities will be higher.

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C, and the California Early Intervention Services Act ensure that infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families receive coordinated services early enough to make a difference. Meeting the complex needs of infants with disabilities and their families involves the services and supports of multiple state and local agencies. To ensure maximum effectiveness, these services are coordinated, flexible, culturally responsive, accessible and, most importantly, responsive to the needs of the child and family.

In California, Early Start's system of early intervention services are intended to support and enhance the capability of every family with an infant or toddler with a disability to meet the special developmental needs of their child. Infants and toddlers with disabilities are an integral part of our communities and make a valuable contribution to society as a whole. Through Early Start, California is committed to support these children and families.

Purpose of the Central Directory

The *Early Start Central Directory* ensures that

- ♦ parents, family members, service providers, and members of the public, including those with disabilities, can get information on the early intervention resources available throughout the state in a timely and organized manner, and
- ♦ information regarding the nature and scope of these resources is available through telephone or written requests at state and local levels.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) annually updates and disseminates the *Early Start Central Directory* as a publication and, beginning in 2001, also will maintain the information on the DDS web site located at www.dds.ca.gov. A toll-free information and referral telephone line, known as the Early Start BabyLine, is also maintained by DDS.

DDS collaborated with the State Departments of Education, Health Services, Mental Health, Social Services, and Alcohol and Drug Programs to identify the services and supports available through their respective agencies. Each agency maintains additional detailed information on the specific services that each provide statewide.

In local communities, family resource centers/networks, regional centers, and local education agencies maintain specific information about the private and public services available within their area. These local resources may include parent support groups; health care providers with knowledge about early intervention and disabilities; special education, early intervention and preschool programs; regional center contacts and vendored services; advocacy organizations; and other related resources for infants and toddlers with special needs and their families.

If you cannot find the information you need about Early Start, call the Early Start BabyLine at 800/515-BABY.

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